

Message Text

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66

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /081 W

----- 019961

R 271634Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6560

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HLESINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1139

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, IC

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. PANMUNJOM INCIDENT OCCUPIED MEDIA SPACE IN ICELAND FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUT WAS NOT SUBJECT OF OFFICIAL GOI REACTION NOR IS IT RE-GARDED HERE AS MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST OR CONCERN.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF INCIDENT AND AFTERMATH, THOUGH ALL BASED ON US WIRE SERVICES AND REUTERS, WAS TYPICALLY SELECTIVE AND HAPHAZARD. ONLY INDEPENDENCE PARTY (CONSERVATIVE) MORGUNBLADID TREATED STORY AS MAJOR DEVELOPMENT, GIVING ALL EVENTS FULL COVERAGE, INCLUDING US SIDE OF STORY. OF OTHER MAJOR AM DAILIES, THJOD-VILJINN (COMMUNIST DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE) AND TIMINN (MIDDLE-OF-ROAD PROGRESSIVE PARTY), BOTH IGNORED STORY INITIALLY AND THEN FOCUSED ON US REACTION AND HEIGHTENED TENSIONS WHILE GIVING ONLY PASSING MENTION TO KILLING OF AMERICANS. TWO PM PAPERS GAVE RANDOM COVERAGE TO MOST ASPECTS OF STORY. IN SHORT, PAPER-TO-PAPER COVERAGE WAS NOT ESPECIALLY FAVORABLE FROM US STANDPOINT, THOUGH SITUATION PERHAPS REDEEMED BY FACT

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THAT MORGUNBLADID IS BOTH MOST HIGHLY RESPECTED AND WIDELY

READ PAPER IN COUNTRY.

3. GOI, WHICH RARELY VOLUNTEERS COMMENTS ON EVENTS IN WHICH IT IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED, HAS SAID NOTHING ON KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS, THOUGH IT SEEMS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT GOI OFFICIALS DEPLORE KILLINGS AND ARE SYMPATHETIC TO US REACTION.

4. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT PANMUNJOM INCIDENT WILL INFLUENCE GOI'S POSITION ON KOREAN ISSUE AT UN WHICH WE NOW EXPECT TO BE UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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